

**Follow along with us as we cruise onboard our  
56' Ocean Yacht.**

# *Somewhere on the Water*

January 18, 2022 – Tuesday, Day 41

Osprey Marina, Myrtle Beach, SC to Leland Oil Company Marina

31 degrees this morning.

7:13 a.m. the engines are running and Mark is doing his pre-trip routine before we leave Osprey Marina.





<https://youtu.be/DwjG1po3oiM>

Video of us leaving Osprey.



The Four Knotts is still here. I hope that they can get their issues squared away and can get back on the water soon. We thought they were leaving yesterday.

This portion of the ICW is the Waccamaw River.

7:50 a.m.

We just passed a boat at anchor S/V Wind Watch. We passed them the other day (Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup>) as we were coming into Myrtle Beach. They are tucked in at Oatbed Island.

8:40 a.m. I look up from my computer. I am editing January 9 & 10 blogs this morning. He is talking to another boat on the VHF. I get up to see the tugboat the Southern Rose. It is pulling dredging equipment.



8:53 a.m. we are passing Wacca Wache Marina. Mark had considered this marina while researching stops in this area, south of Myrtle Beach. We as you know stayed at Osprey Marina. There are a couple of boats that are at anchor off our starboard side. Tucked in next to Richmond Island. Richmond Island sits in the middle of the AICW. The Cow House Creek borders Richmond Island on its west. We passed by the Richmond Island on its east, still known as the Waccamaw River.

This marina looks nice, Mark suspects perhaps a burst pipe at the dock because of the way the water was flowing and there is a rather impressive S/V; the Emma Todd, on the face dock here. This town is Murrells Inlet, SC



There is a story behind this S/V Emma Todd. It is a prime example of why Mark and I are doing what we are doing.

John spent 12 years building this vessel. 103' three-masted schooner. During those 12 years, it became a landmark in Murrells Inlet, SC at the Wacca Wache Marina. It made its maiden voyage in 2002. John set off to sail the world in his dreamboat that he spent over a decade building. Returning after falling ill he came back to Murrells Inlet. Finally, after nearly 20 years the upkeep got to be too much and in April of 2021 the vessel was sold and renamed the S/V Emma Todd and at the time was setting sail for Maine. The new owner Steve was intending to add the Emma Todd to Downeast Windjammer Cruise Lines.

I could not find any further updates, nor did I see anything on their website about it. I did see a help wanted sign for a captain & crew dated back in April 2021.



Here it sits at the same marina  
that it supposedly was leaving 9-months ago.  
– so...yeah?

Along the ICW is the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge. One of four Refuges in SC Lowcountry. Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge encompasses nearly 29,000 acres, established in 1997 to protect and preserve the diverse habitat, and to provide a variety of wildlife-dependent recreational activities including hunting, fishing, photography, and education.-fws.gov

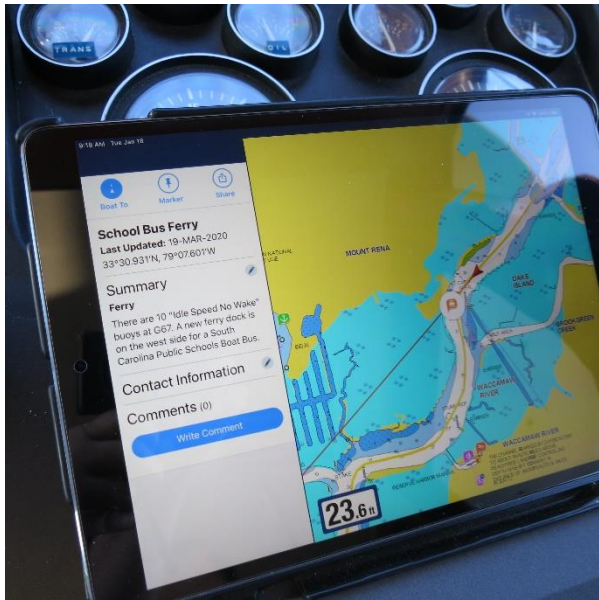
Mark says the sun is hitting our wake and making it look like dancing crystals. Not something I could capture with a photo but I complimented his poetic description and it was pretty.

Maybe if you squint your eyes you can see it?



9:12 a.m. Mark does his first engine room check. He says Hooper is driving the boat but we were not on the yellow line so I actually pushed a button! My heart was racing because I knew we needed to be on course. Sometimes 2-minutes feels like an hour! **I have got to learn how to drive this boat!**

9:21 a.m. we are passing by an area marked on Mark's map - **School Bus Ferry**. I took a photo of a boat for Sandy Island Tours. My map says we are just on the south end of Oak Island, with Sandy Island and Bull Tongue Island on our right.

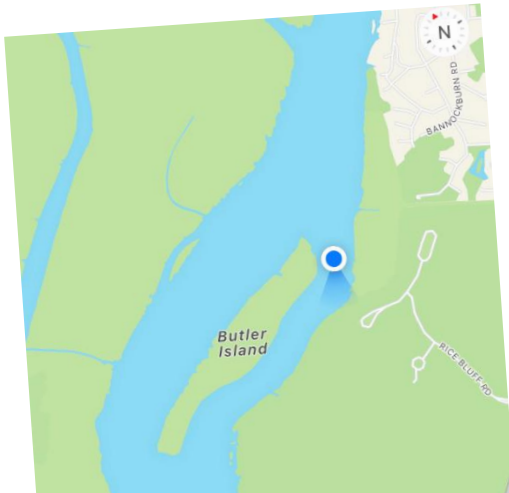


This boat we just passed, set up more like a dock than just a boat at anchor has a large banner  
[Frozen Mixers.](#)



9:51 a.m. we met this guy, he did not slow down, but no need really, his wake was minimal and we did not slow down either.

The river has widened and Pawley's Island is off our portside.



10:10 a.m. We are going to pass by this tiny Butler Island along its left.



I can see the steam/smoke from International Paper, a corrugated packaging facility, and a power plant over the tree line. Georgetown is home to Winyah Plant-Santee Cooper Generating station, a coal-fired power station.



We have warmed up to 34°

We have not seen any wildlife during this morning's cruise except for a couple of turkey vultures perched in a tree off to our right.

Eventually, we will pass under Route 17/Ocean Hwy that connects Pawley's Island to the mainland at Georgetown.

This is where the Great Pee Dee River and Wacama River join together at Winyah Bay.



10:47 a.m. I was too busy editing January 11<sup>th</sup>'s blog to notice we just went under Route 17 bridge. We slowed down for these fishermen and Georgetown is in site off our starboard side.



11:30 a.m. Hard right turn coming up as we leave the Western Channel to keep on the ICW.



Just passed Georgetown as we came out of Wacama River it turned into Winyah Bay.

We stay to the west of the small island into the Western Channel and then took the hard-right to stay on course in the ICW.

Since Mark had no view of what was around this corner he sounded his horn.



We came up to this floating bridge. Here's a video of us going through it.

<https://youtu.be/MMbDPecQCfY>



# Pontoon swing bridge replaces ferry at Esterville-Minim Creek

**Date Posted:** 2015-06-04

**Source:** WG Staff

The ferry crossing at Esterville-Minim Creek Canal on the ICW (Mile 411) has been replaced by a pontoon swing bridge – somewhat like the old Sunset Beach pontoon bridge that once crossed the ICW at Mile 338

Waterway Guide Contributor Bill Hezlep reports that it rests against the east bank when open, and is pulled across the canal by cable until the free end comes to rest against a large, fendered dolphin on the west side. The bridge remains open to marine traffic unless a vehicle needs to cross. Watch for flashing yellow lights on sign to indicate an opening.

<https://www.waterwayguide.com/latest-news/news/5186/pontoon-swing-bridge-replaces-ferry-at-esterville-minim-creek>

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11:45 a.m. We had 2 dolphins swim by us. They did not stick around and swim next to us.

Haleigh made a yummy chicken bbq wrap with lettuce, tomatoes & cheese for lunch. She is kind enough to share. I swear if she did not make lunch I wouldn't eat until dinner but I am lucky enough on days we are cruising she usually takes care of me 😊

I have had the pleasure of texting with a couple of friends this morning which always makes my heart happy. College students are on their way back to school this week.

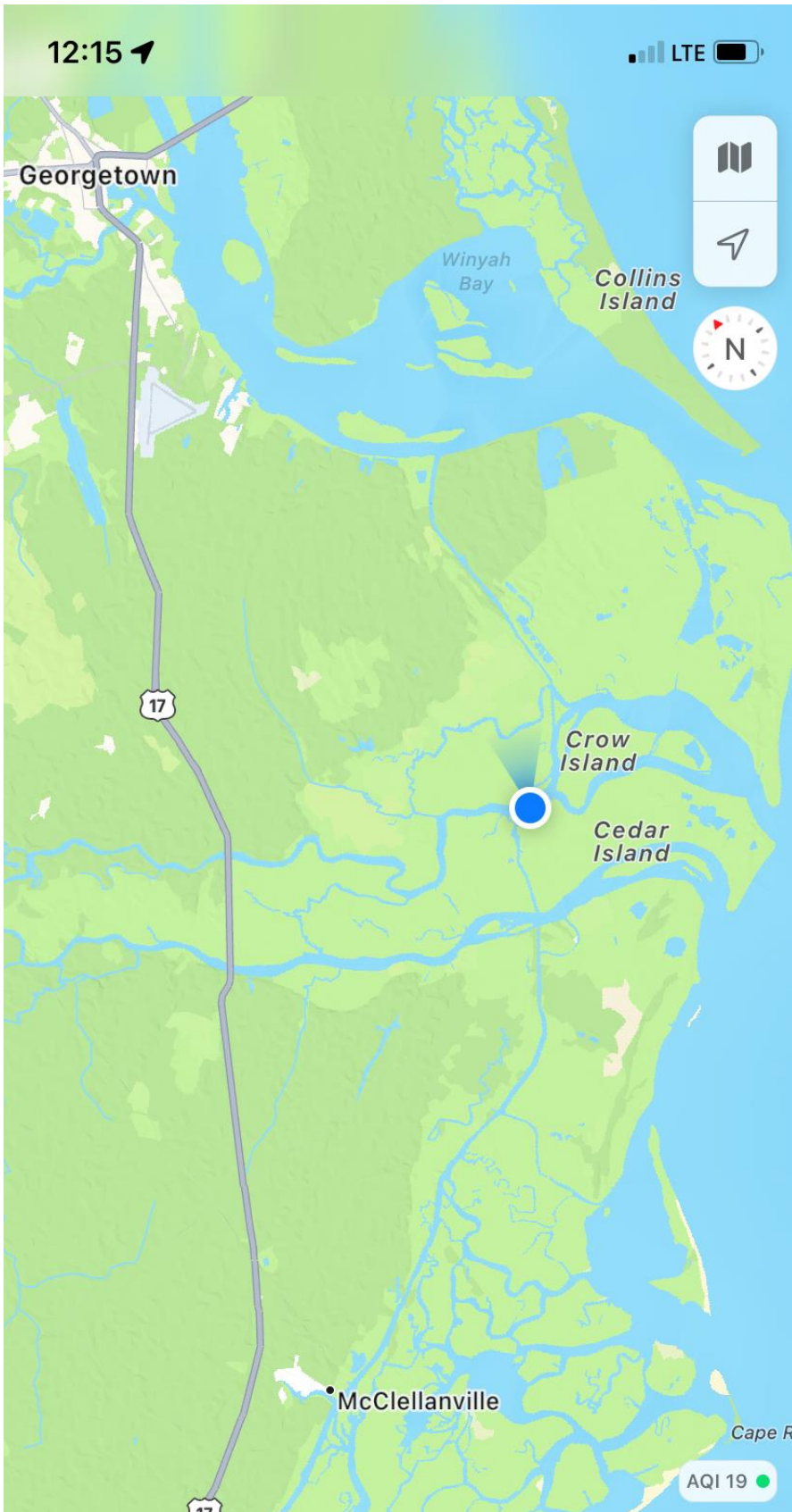
Jordan texted this morning. After spending a couple of days in Vermont she is leaving for school this morning.



11:56 a.m. The sun is keeping us warm so Mark turned off the generator. We met a boat as we passed by Little Crow Island along Big Duck Creek into the North Santee River. Saw a

beautiful grey heron perched on a tree.





We have been surrounded by marshland most of today's cruise.

Besides the occasional golf club and Georgetown, our views have been miles and miles of nature's untouched marshlands.

Not too much wildlife, a few egrets, a heron, a turkey vulture, and the two dolphins I mentioned.

I am not sure if my camera could capture the golden reeds that stretch as far as our eyes can see. You can see with the snapshot I took of my mapping app just how much grassland there is spanning out from the shoreline that we are traveling.

Thousands and thousands of acres.

Keeping on the ICW, we are now traveling the Fourmile Creek Canal.

Why are there boats and docks seemingly in the middle of now where?



The Santee Coastal Reserve is on our right so it must be that someone has permission to be on these lands.

The Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge is on our left as well as the Atlantic Ocean. Coming up to 12:50 p.m. I can just barely see on the horizon the Cape Romain Lighthouses. I only see one but according to [lighthousefriends.com](http://lighthousefriends.com) there are two.

Typically if you build a new one the old one is removed. However, this is not the case here. The traditional brick tower, conical tower, stands 65' tall and was erected in 1827. The other, newer tower is 150' tall and was put into service in 1858. With an amazing history, these 2-light houses were accompanied by three keeper's dwellings and a boathouse.

<https://youtu.be/DB8m6Zivxog>

Now that we have traveled a little bit further, I can see the second, shorter lighthouse.



1:30 p.m. We arrived. Lacey was our dockhand and when Mark asked if August 15<sup>th</sup> came yesterday as they had told us they were coming here, she said they radioed and said they were going to keep going so they did not stay here last night.

She recommended we try Carolina Seafood for fresh seafood and she said their crab dip is very good. She suggested making it into a grilled cheese sandwich. I will have to try that!



The water is full of iron, we won't hook up. Lacey said there were laundry facilities if needed. We don't need to do laundry. Haleigh just spent Sunday all day doing it.

\$1.50 per foot \$5. Electric

Mark announced that there is a bald eagle out of our port side on the bank eating freshly caught fish. I tried to video with my iPhone, my canon with the good zoom is charging.

This is what I was able to get!  
<https://youtu.be/PKQtEZd6Lf8>

Since Mark spied the eagle with its fresh catch, 6-turkey vultures have swooped in and perched themselves on the nearby dock.

Not challenging this eagle but patiently waiting, because they are going to get the leftovers before that one lonely seagull gets it.

The eagle must have not have appreciated the audience because now, almost one hour later, he split, and took his fish with him (or her 😊)



We did walk over to the fish market. We bought shrimp dip and crab dip. We thought about buying some fish for dinner but we had to filet it ourselves and we were not feeling like doing that so we stuck with the two dips. We then walked to find Uncle Percys Village Market to see what fun unique things we could find there. The reviews online were good. The problem is that it no longer exists. So a nice walk in 50degree sunshine yielded the two dips and a nice walk along Spanish moss-lined streets.



It's 5 o'clock and the fishing boats are coming in with their daily catch. That makes the birds very happy.

Haleigh yells from her bathroom; Toilet is not flushing, exhaust fan not working. What?! Really?

Well...remember the rain while we were at Osprey Marina, Myrtle Beach. It rained enough to make our window leak.....the rainwater leaks onto the exhaust fan motor, then it gets rusty, and it blew a fuse.

The motor is down in what Mark calls 'the hole.' It is underneath Haleigh's room.

We ate the crab dip and shrimp dip. Shrimp dip was better but both were good. We did not make the dip into a sandwich as Lacy suggested.

The moon looked bright and full and was a wonderful way to close out another gorgeous day on the water.

While I was taking photos off the back of the moon I decided to check out the new underwater lights....

